



Series: SEEING IS BELIEVING
(Book Study Gospel of John)

Christ First Church
Pastor Wayne Chasteen

Sermon 7: Greater Things To Come
(John 2: 1-12)

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INTRO: Look with me at John chapter 2. Today, we will focus on verses 1-12. This is a very familiar passage. It is the first miracle (or as John calls them, sign) performed by Jesus that is recorded in the Word of God. It is also the miracle that launches the ministry of Christ, and sets Him on a collision course with the cross!

Today is the 7th sermon in our series, "Seeing Is Believing". We are continuing our way through the Book of John. I hope you have your John journals. Please take time to read in the Book of John each week. Our study will mean so much more to you if you do.

Let's read together, and notice...

1) THE MOMENT: vv 1-5 "And on the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

We love the tidiness of chapter and verse divisions in the Bible, but we should remember that they are not original. Our text begins not with the word "On," as with many translations, but with the word "and". It's the Greek word Kai (kahee). This word connects chapter 2 with the last verses of the first chapter. Chapter 1 ended with Jesus telling Nathanael that if he believed and followed Him that he will see the glory of God--that he would "see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." Our text picks up with "And"... And Nathanael is about to see something awesome take place.

v 1 tells us simply that "the mother of Jesus was there". It is probably so, that the wedding party and family was of some relation to Mary and Jesus. And that Mary was there assisting with the wedding. This would explain her knowing that there was a problem, and her telling the servants what to do. It would also explain why Jesus and His disciples received an invitation to come.

v 3 states that the wine ran out during the festivities, and that Mary made Jesus aware of it. When Jesus gets word from His mother, He seems to not be interested. He answers in a way that seems curt, especially given the fact that He's speaking to His mother. But the word translated, "women" here, is a kind, word akin to what we would mean by saying lady. Most theologians believe that there is significance here. And that this ministry launch starts a new relationship between Jesus and Mary. He is no longer to be recognized as Mary's son, but rather by His new title, the Son of Man.

We could rightly say that this is the moment that changed everything! Jesus will speak of His hour to come. He understood His purpose. He knew that once He began His ministry, there was an inevitable end. **THIS WAS THE MOMENT!**

I) THE MOMENT: vv 1-5 **CONTINUE** Still, it seems, that Mary had much influence over Jesus, and that Jesus loved His mother, and in a show of respect, listened to her concern. We need those people in our lives who will nudge us. This is one of the reasons why regular fellowship with members of the body of Christ is essential. Hebrews 10:24 tells us to, *"provoke (or spur on) one another to good works."*

People who say that they "come to church for God and not for people" miss a great biblical truth. God knows that we need one another in His design, and He has so willed it, that we experience His glory when we are gathered together. The gifts of the Spirit operate when we get together. Paul's letter to the Corinthians about the supernatural gifts of the Spirit was written in the context of corporate worship. He says, "when you come together" (1 Cor 11:20). Some people dry up spiritually because they are not connected to the rest of the church. It is important to stick close together.

Look at v 5, *"His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."* Okay, so what did we miss here. It seems Jesus is disinterested in this problem, but Mary must have picked up on something, because she tells the servants, "do what He says". There must have been something in His tone in v 4 that let Mary know that He was going to take care of everything!

There is something significant about the way we listen to God. Some people read the Bible, and they see God as a harsh task master who only wants to keep them from fun. But others read the Word and hear the tender tones of a heavenly Father that cares deeply for His children. What do you hear in the voice of God?

ILLUS: I love the story of the old Native American Chief who was walking down a busy sidewalk of a large city, with a very successful businessman. It was noisy, and people were bumping into one another, and into him. The horns of taxis were blowing. Everyone was in a hurry. Suddenly, the old Chief stops and says, "Shhh. Listen." The businessman said, "Listen for what?" "Don't you hear it? Its a cricket." The businessman replied, "A cricket? I don't hear anything." But the Chief looked around and then walked over and picked up the cricket and showed the amazed businessman. "I don't believe it. Here we are downtown in the middle of all this noise and all these people, and you heard a cricket. How in the world did you do that?" "I'll show you," replied the old man. He took some change from his pocket and threw it on the sidewalk. As the money clattered and rolled around, twenty or more people stopped to look. The old Chief then said to the businessman, "You always hear what you are tuned into hear," (Tony Evans. Kingdom Single: Living Complete and Fully Free).

So, we see THE MOMENT. Notice...

II) THE MIRACLE: vv 6-10 *"Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."*

Okay, this is just cool! Listen, Jesus can take what is familiar and make it glorious. Your life may seem common and ordinary, but there are unseen miracles awaiting you!

I) THE MOMENT: vv 1-5

II) THE MIRACLE: vv 6-10 CONTINUED Your miracle begins where your submission to His Voice begins. Some miracles come with instructions. He instructed them to "fill the waterpots with water." In obedience, they filled them up to the brim. There are moments when your miracle can be proportional. If they would have filled the waterpots only half full, or a quarter full, the miracle may have fallen short of what it did.

2 Kings 4 records the story of the woman who's children were about to be sold to pay the debt owed to creditors after her husband had died. She brought her need to Elisha. He asked her what she had in the house, and she replied just a flask of oil, that's it. Sympathetic to her needs, the prophet tells her to bring the oil to him, and for her to send her sons out to gather all the pots and jars they could find. She obeyed, and with that one little jar, she filled every pot and pan she had, and all them her neighbors had! She obeyed, and God gave the increase.

In 1 Kings 17 we see a little widow woman in Zarephath. Elijah was sent to her house by God. When Elijah got into town, he sees the woman just as God described. He asks her for some bread to eat. She said, all I have is a little flour in a barrel, and a drop of oil in a jar. She told the prophet she was making one last little cake for her and her son, and she said, after that I guess we'll die. Elijah said, no, no, your worrying is over. GO make me a cake first, then you can make one for you and your son. Because the Lord has said your meal barrel nor your jar of oil will ever run dry, until He sends rain upon the earth.

The LORD challenged the returned nation of Judah in Malachi's book to bring their tithes into the storehouse and see if he would not pour out a blessing on them that they could not contain! LISTEN, God still provides! He can turn water into wine. And he can take nothing and make something of it. He is awesome God!

Notice lastly...

III) THE MANIFESTING: vv 11-12 "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. 12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days."

vv 11 "and manifested His glory..." The word MANIFEST means to make known, to clearly reveal, to cause to be seen or to make something clear. The word GLORY is the Greek word DOXA and means a display of God's true nature, presence, or likeness. It speaks of that which gives a proper opinion or estimate of Who God is.

Here, we get the first glimpse of Jesus, the GOD-man! How exciting!

CONCLUSION: In these verses, we hear something unique in the tone of His voice, and we see Him in His glory! And although, it's all clearly recorded for us on the pages of God's Word, still some people miss Jesus. Let me ask you, do you hear him? Can you see Him? Today, if you listen to his voice, and harden not your heart, you too, can see His glory revealed in you!